(a) whether a joint deep sea fishing venture was proposed to be taken up with the earstwhile Soviet Union;

(b) whether the proposal could not materialise because of certain conditions inserted upon by list while Soviet Union;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take up the matter with the new Soviet set up; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Four joint ventures in deep sea fishing are proposed to be taken up with companies and organisations of countries of earstwhile Soviet Union.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Power Supply in North Bihar

5232. SHRI SHIVA SHARAN SINHA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of power supply in North Bihar and whether this area gets minimum supply of power in the country; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government for improving this position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b): During the period April, 91 - February, 92, the energy requirement in Bihar was 6815 million units against which the availability was 4789 million units, which represents a shortage of 29.7%. The power supply to various areas in State of Bihar falls under the distribution system of the State and is the prerogative of State Government/SEB. State is provided its due share from Eastern Region as well as assistance from Northern Region as a special case. Various other measures being taken to increase the availability of power in Bihar include maximising generation from existing generating stations, implementation of Renovation and Modernisation Programme, reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses, effective load management and energy conservation etc.

[*English*]

Orange Juice Processing Plant In Maharashtra

5233. SHRI RAMACHANDRA GHANGARE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of orange processing plants set up in Maharashtra alongwith its locations;

(b) whether any of the above plants is sick unit and if so, the help Government extended to such plants for survival;

(c) whether any plant exported any of the its products and if so, to what extent they have earned foreign exchange; and

(d) whether any incentive or assistance have given by the State and the Union Government to the above plants to augment their sales?